



First Lady Melanie A. Blunt

Melanie Anderson Blunt was born in the small community of Middleburg, Virginia. After graduating from high school, Melanie attended James Madison University and graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Fashion Merchandising. After college, Melanie managed retail stores for the Limited Inc., Britches and Talbots.

Melanie met Matt in 1996 while he was serving in the United States Navy. They were married the following year. During the first year of their marriage, Matt was at sea for over six months.

After Matt left active naval duty, the couple moved to a home near Matt's birthplace in Springfield, Missouri. Like Matt, Melanie is convinced that Missouri provides a tremendous environment to live, work and raise a family.

During the past year, Melanie has devoted herself fulltime to helping her husband strengthen Missouri. She has traveled all across our state, attending coffees, walking in parades, delivering speeches and visiting with countless Missourians about their hopes and aspirations.

She considers the experience both rewarding and invigorating. "Each day, I learn more about the challenges facing the people of Missouri and I am certain that Matt will lead our state to a successful and rewarding future."

Melanie is pleased to offer her insights and experiences to Matt as he deals with issues that affect the lives of all Missourians.

An active community leader and volunteer, Melanie's service has been particularly focused on many of Missouri's most vulnerable children.

As a past member of the Executive Board and Board of Directors of the Junior League of Springfield, Melanie has lead projects aimed at addressing disability awareness. In addition, Melanie represented the league on its State Public Affairs Committee.

Melanie is a member of the Regional Board of Directors for Boys and Girls Town of Missouri. She has been recognized for her assistance with charity events that benefit the Springfield campus.

Melanie most enjoys visiting Missouri classrooms. She believes education holds the key to unlocking the opportunities available to all Missourians. Her interest in effective education is not new. In the past, Melanie helped coordinate a program called "Kids on the Block," which presents positive messages about diversity and acceptance to school children.

Melanie has presented several grants and awards to Missouri community libraries and believes they are an integral part of continuing education and cultural enrichment.

Melanie and Matt Blunt recently welcomed their first child, William Branch Blunt, who was born on March 9, 2005.